

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-16 and 18-21 are pending, claims 5, 8 and 17 are canceled, and claims 20 and 21 are added.

Claims 8 and 17 are canceled without prejudice, thereby alleviating the objection to the drawings and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,910,806 to Strand et al. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-16, 18 and 19 are not anticipated by Strand.

Strand does not disclose fastener tracks extending from one side seal to the other side seal and having end stops at each end of the fastener tracks spaced inwardly from the side seals, in combination with score lines extending downwardly across said fastener tracks at an incline as presently recited in independent claims 1 and 15, and by dependency in claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-16, 18 and 19. As disclosed in the present application, providing end stops of the fastener tracks spaced inwardly from the side seals can advantageously "prevent distortion of the stops arising from heating as the side seals are formed." (Page 3, l. 33 – page 4, l. 2.)

The Office action specifically identifies Figures 1-6 of Strand. The first embodiment shown in Figure 5 of Strand does not show any end stop of the fastener tracks 20 inward from the side seal 30. Likewise, the alternative to the first embodiment shown in Figure 6 of Strand does not show any end stop of the fastener tracks 20 inward from the side seal 30. Other embodiments disclosed in Strand lack fastener tracks extending from one side seal to the other side seal (e.g., Figures 7, 11, 19, 21, 28, 37, 40, 40a, 42 and 59).

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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s/Jon A. Birmingham/

Jon A. Birmingham

Registration No. 51,222

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone: 312.577.7000
Facsimile: 312.577.7007

462324